

## REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the final Office Action dated September 3, 2008, are respectfully requested and in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

### *Status of the Claims*

Claims 4, 11, and 27-42 are pending. Claims 4, 11, 32, and 37 have been amended, and Claims 39-42 have been added. Claims 4, 11, 32 and 37 independent. Support for the new claims and claim changes can be found in the original disclosure and therefore no new matter has been added.

### *Claim Rejections*

Claims 4, 11 and 27-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,104,886 (Suzuki et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,324,226 (Fritz).

### *Response to Claim Rejections*

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejection, Claims 4, 11, 32, and 37 have been amended. Applicants submit that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 4 relates to a digital camera which can be directly connected to a printer, and has a function of directly transmitting a plurality of images to the printer. The camera comprises a selection unit configured to select a plurality of images to be printed, a print instruction transmitting unit configured to transmit, to the printer, a print instruction indicating

that the plurality of images selected by said selection unit are to be printed, an image transmitting unit configured to transmit, in response to receiving from the printer a request for transmitting an image to be printed, the requested image to the printer, and a display unit.

Claim 4 has been amended to recite a reception unit configured to receive from the printer a reception end message indicating that all the images to be printed have been received by the printer. Claim 4 has also been amended to recite that the display unit is configured to display information indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can disconnect before completion of a print process, by the printer, of the images to be printed, in response to receiving the reception end message by the reception unit.

By this arrangement, a message from the printer indicating that all the images to be printed have been received by the printer causes a display unit to display information indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can disconnect before completion of a print process by the printer of the images to be printed.

In contrast, the citations to Suzuki et al. and Fritz et al. are not understood to disclose or suggest a display unit configured to display information indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can disconnect before completion of a print process, by the printer, of the images to be printed, in response to a reception unit of the camera receiving a reception end message from the printer that all the images to be printed have been received by the printer, as recited by amended Claim 4.

Rather, the citation to Suzuki et al. is understood to disclose a digital camera, having a LCD, that directly connects to a printer. But this citation is understood to be silent about displaying information indicating that the communication between an image input apparatus and the printer can disconnect. Accordingly, this citation is understood to fails to teach or suggest

that the digital camera displays information indicating that such communication can disconnect before completion of a print process, by the printer, of the images to be printed in response to receiving a reception end message by the reception unit, as recited by amended Claim 4.

The Office Action cites column 6, lines 11-16 of the citation to Fritz et al. to show this missing feature. But this portion of the Fritz et al. citation is understood to merely disclose that an entity 501 sends a stop-print request to a print server when all the data to be printed is sent to the printer:

The entity 501 comprises a stopping device 520 arranged for stopping the print job said stopping device 520 comprises a sending device 521 arranged for sending a message to the printer server, the message comprising a request to stop the print job. The stopping device 520 will be used when all of data to be printed in a print job is sent to the printer.

Thus, this portion of the citation to Fritz et al. is not understood to disclose a reception unit configured to receive from the printer a reception end message indicating that all the images to be printed have been received by the printer, or a display unit configured to display information indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can disconnect before completion of a print process, by the printer, of the images to be printed, in response to receiving the reception end message by the reception unit, as recited by amended Claim 4.

Since the citations to Suzuki et al. and Fritz are not understood to disclose or suggest at least one feature of amended Claim 4, Applicants submit that the Office has not yet established a prima facie case of obviousness against amended Claim 4. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 4 be withdrawn. And because corresponding image-input-apparatus Claim 11 and corresponding method Claims 32 and 37 have been amended in a similar

manner, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 11, 32, and 37 also be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given for the independent claims and because they recite features that are patentable in their own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims are respectfully solicited.

### *Conclusion*

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue of the application is earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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